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RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
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RUEKDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 002125

SIPDIS

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SUBJECT: ETHIOPIA ALLAYS SOUTH SUDANESE ANGST ABOUT  
PERCEIVED U.S. SHIFT

Classified By: Acting Deputy Chief of Mission, Michael C. Gonzales for  
reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

¶1. (C) Just one week after U.S. Special Envoy for Sudan  
Gration witnessed the signing of a new protocol between North  
and South Sudan to accelerate implementation of the  
Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), a South Sudanese  
minister (NFI) expressed angst to Ethiopian Minister and  
State Minister for Foreign Affairs that the U.S. may be  
shifting its orientation away from Juba. In an August 26  
courtesy call by the Charge, State Minister for Foreign  
Affairs Dr. Tekeda Alemu reported that he had just concluded  
a meeting with a delegation from Juba and the delegation was  
to meet Foreign Minister Seyoum later that afternoon.

¶2. (C) Tekeda assessed that the Government of South Sudan has  
long depended on very strong U.S. support and now that they  
see that support becoming "wobbly," they are concerned.  
Speaking for the Ethiopian Government (GoE), Tekeda stated  
that "we like what we see" with regard to the recent U.S.  
stance vis-a-vis North and South Sudan, noting the United  
States' previous approach was "too off center." Tekeda noted  
that he had tried to allay South Sudan's concerns by arguing  
to the visiting minister that a separation between North and  
South is "inevitable," so it will be useful for the U.S. and  
National Congress Party (NCP) to have a relationship "so  
Washington can restrain Khartoum" in the future. Tekeda  
suggested that this argument helped relieve some of the  
delegation's fears.

¶3. (C) Tekeda informed the Charge that he had also discussed  
internal problems within the Sudanese People's Liberation  
Movement (SPLM), noting "I told them not to be too surprised  
if their friends are concerned about intra-south dynamics."  
Tekeda did note that the SPLM had conducted a large meeting  
in May 2009 which did see some progress. He also expressed  
encouragement that the SPLM is poised to embark on disarmament  
efforts.

¶4. (C) Tekeda closed the conversation by advising that "the  
problem in Sudan is not only with one side. So, as the  
United States shifts, you must be careful not to go  
overboard."

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